

Message Text

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SUBJECT: THRACIAN ART EXHIBIT

REF: (A) SOFIA 2168 (B) STATE 136370 (C) STATE 249931 AND
CU/EE (HURWITZ) T.S. NOV 11

1. WE NOW HAVE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT SUBJECT EXHIBIT WHICH RICHMOND GAVE BERBENLIEV OF COMMITTEE FOR ART AND CULTURE (REFTEL A, PARA 4K). FULL TRANSLATION AND COPIES OF CATALOG IN FRENCH AND RUSSIAN BEING POUCHED DEPT FOR ATTENTION CU/EE.

2. SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS, KEYED TO QUESTIONS IN REFTEL B (EMBASSY COMMENTS IN PARENTHESES):

A. EXHIBIT CONTAINS 502 "OBJECTS OF GOLD, SILVER, CLAY, BRONZE, STONE--UTENSILS, ORNAMENTS, ARMS, PLASTIC ART, CERAMICS."

B. EXHIBIT REQUIRES 800 TO 1,000 SQUARE METERS.

C. BULGARIANS SUGGEST THREE MONTHS' DISPLAY IN NEW YORK.

(WE PREFER WASHINGTON TO NEW YORK, IF ONLY ONE CITY POSSIBLE, BUT FEEL CONFIDENT BULGARIANS WOULD AGREE TO BOTH AND POSSIBLY OTHERS, DEPENDING UPON FINANCIAL DETAILS. EXHIBIT NOW SCHEDULED OR PLANNED THROUGH MARCH 1976 IN LONDON. BRAZILIANS REPORTEDLY ALSO INTERESTED FOR 1976.)

D. BULGARIANS AND U.S. TO SHARE INSURANCE COSTS HALF-AND-HALF. "COMMISSIONER" ACCOMPANIES EXHIBIT.

(ACCORDING NON-BULGARIAN SOURCES, AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE PROVIDED THAT BULGARIANS PAID ALL INSURANCE; BRITISH AND AUSTRIAN AGREEMENTS, WHICH REMAIN TO BE FINALIZED, CONTAIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SIMILAR PROVISIONS. APPARENT STICKING POINT WITH BRITISH AND

AUSTRIANS IS EXPENSES OF BULGARIAN CURATORS WHO ACCOMPANY EXHIBIT; BULGARIANS HAVE PROPOSED BRITISH PAY FOR 250 MAN-DAYS.)

E. EACH EXHIBIT ITEM TRAVELS IN INDIVIDUAL CRATE. TOTAL WEIGHT ABOUT 2,000 KILOGRAMS.

F. "ALL FINANCIAL AND PRACTICAL QUESTIONS" AND "QUESTIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY AND SECURITY" ARE TO BE SUBJECT OF "CONTRACT" BETWEEN BULGARIANS AND RECEIVING SIDE. (WE ASSUME CONTRACT WOULD BE BETWEEN SITES AND COMMITTEE FOR ART AND CULTURE. ANOTHER STICKING POINT ON BRITISH AGREEMENT REPORTEDLY IS BULGARIAN PROPOSAL THAT, WHILE SHIPMENT TO U.K. IS AT NO COST TO HOSTS, BRITISH PAY FOR AIR TRANSPORT OF EXHIBIT FROM LONDON TO NEXT EXHIBIT SITE, EITHER U.S. OR BRASILIA.)

G. RECEIVING SIDE PUBLISHES CATALOG; BULGARIANS RECEIVE 200 FREE COPIES AND 10 PERCENT OF PROCEEDS. BULGARIAN FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATION "HEMUS" OPERATES STAND FOR SALE OF BOOKS ON EXHIBIT AND BULGARIA IN GENERAL, SLIDES, CARDS, STAMPS, RECORDS, ETC. (BULGARIANS PROVIDE TEXT AND PHOTO-GRAPHS FOR CATALOG. PENDING REACTION OF SITES AND POTENTIAL HOST MUSEUMS, OUR INITIAL FEELING IS TO OPPOSE "HEMUS" STAND; HOST MUSEUM COULD SELL MUTUALLY AGREED BULGARIAN MATERIALS, WITH BULGARIANS RECEIVING PERCENTAGE.)

3. APPARENTLY BULGARIANS HAVE DECIDED, DESPITE EARLIER PROMISES, NOT TO PROVIDE US WITH COPIES OF AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. WE HAVE SUMMARY OF AGREEMENT WITH FRENCH (OBTAINED FROM NON-FRENCH, NON-BULGARIAN SOURCE) AND COPY BULGARIAN PROPOSAL TO BRITISH, BOTH OF WHICH BEING POUCHED. WILL TRY OBTAIN FULL TEXTS THROUGH OTHER SOURCES AND FORWARD TO WASHINGTON.

4. ASSUMING SITES DECISION IS POSITIVE--WHICH WE HOPE IN VIEW OF QUALITY OF EXHIBIT AND OPPORTUNITY IT OFFERS FOR VITALIZING U.S.-BULGARIAN CULTURAL EXCHANGES--WOULD NEXT STEP BE FOR SITES TO OFFER DRAFT CONTRACT?
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